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Learning Persistence and Endurance #2

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Our early forefathers declared their freedom in 1776 and the challenge of war began, the war was over in 1783. They went through years of persevering and enduring to get their freedom. Once their declaration was made the battle began, many times that is what happens to us. We make a declaration of what we plan to do in serving the Lord and this is when the challenge comes to us, if we don't know how to persevere or endure we will lose our victory. Jesus gives us the blessings and then He says we must possess it. This is done by faith.

Heb 10:35-36 "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." KJV

Heb 10:35-36 "Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great *and* glorious compensation of reward. 36 For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform *and* fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive *and* carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised." AMP

The book of Hebrews is written to people wanting to quit. Confidence has great recompense of reward. There is a reward, receiving something that we have been believing God for. Confidence has courage within it, don't let fear enter in. The enemy will come trying to cause the believer to cast away confidence through a series of circumstances of adversity, he doesn't us to be blessed in any way, but God's plan is that we would be gloriously blessed in our lives.

An example was given of some bird's building their nests, after the nest had been torn down they kept returning to rebuild and finish the job, not letting distractions ruin their plans. They were persistent and persevered until their nests were rebuilt. They had a purpose to nest and reproduce.

This is the way that we should be, but in order for us to endure we have to have a purpose, a mission in our lives. God has a purpose or destiny for us, but in order for us to understand, we must have the will or power to endure. Our purpose is to reproduce Christian people strong in faith. We must be convinced that we have heard from God and have a purpose in life, not giving up during adversity and causing us to lose our reward.

Mark 5:22-24; 35-36; 41-42

22 "And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, 23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. 24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him."

35-36 "While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? 36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he

saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe."

41-42 "And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. 42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment." KJV

Mark 5:35-36 "While He was still speaking, there came some from the ruler's house, who said [to Jairus], Your daughter has died. Why bother *and* distress the Teacher any further? 36 *Overhearing* but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, Do not be seized with alarm *and* struck with fear; only keep on believing." AMP

Mark 5 presents the Lordship of Jesus over all demonic spirits, over death and has healing for everyone. Jarius was aware of Jesus and what He was capable of doing; he came to Jesus to ask healing for his daughter who was at the point of death. Jesus told him to only believe and she would be made whole again. There were outsiders who tried to change Jarius' mind and discourage him, but he held fast, being persistent.

Jarius continued to hold on to what Jesus had told him, not letting circumstances that arose change his mind. He could have, letting the lady interfere with what he was believing for and lost his daughter. But he chose to be persistent believing that she would be healed. The plan or will of God was to go his house and heal his daughter. He received word that his daughter had died, but Jesus told him to continue to believe and he would see his miracle.

How are we going to respond when we feel like we have received a word from God regarding our situations and yet circumstances have made it appear that all is lost? Are we going to be like the birds, being persistent and continuing to rebuild or are we going to cast away our confidence, quitting, giving up thinking that maybe we had not heard from God? Our senses will try to tell us that it is too late and we have lost our reward, but this is not true. Fear always displaces our confidence or faith on any level that our lives may touch.

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Jarius received his reward with the healing of his daughter. He just kept believing what Jesus had told him.

Patience means a quality that does not surrender to trial or succumb to circumstances, always associated with hope and is the opposite of despondency.

Mark 11:23 "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." KJV

When we believe that we have heard from God and make our declaration then the battle begins. We must stand our ground in order for us to receive our reward. The enemy will try to pluck the word, which has been sown, out of our hearts unless we take our stand, being persistent, holding on to what God has promised. Breakthroughs will come and be smooth for awhile.

1 Peter 4:12-19 "Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process,

with glory just around the corner. If you're abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. If they're on you because you broke the law or disturbed the peace, that's a different matter. But if it's because you're a Christian, don't give it a second thought. Be proud of the distinguished status reflected in that name. It's judgment time for God's own family. We're first in line. If it starts with us, think what it's going to be like for those who refuse God's Message! If good people barely make it, What's in store for the bad? So if you find life difficult because you're doing what God said, take it in stride. Trust him. He knows what he's doing, and he'll keep on doing it." MESSAGE

When we really begin doing something for God we cannot assume that there will be no trials or problems, we will find adversity, because the enemy is not going to sit by and let us receive from God with giving us a battle.

Rom 5:2-4 "Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice *and* exult in our hope of experiencing *and* enjoying the glory of God. 3 Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult *and* triumph in our troubles *and* rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure *and* affliction *and* hardship produce patient *and* unswerving endurance. 4 And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation." AMP

Rom 5:2-4 "By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have it all together with God because of our Master Jesus. And that's not all: We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise. 3-5 There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!" MESSAGE

It is because of faith that we have God's grace, that we receive Jesus, who is the door by which we access the promises, the key being faith. Shouting praise when we are in the midst of trouble, standing our ground, we keep on believing, it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward. Our God that we serve is greater than any adversity that we might face. Whatever the necessity that we may need, God is able to bring us up and over, keep us safe in the midst of anything and bring us through, God is greater.